



# Calling All Middle School Students!

Share your ideas and show off your citizenship skills in the National Civics Bee.

## About the Bee

The National Civics Bee is an annual competition that encourages young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities. In the first round of the contest, local middle school students will participate in an essay competition. Judges will then select 20 finalists to participate in the local competition: a live quiz event testing civics knowledge. Then, the top 3 students from each local competition will advance to the state competition.

**\$1,000** cash prize  
LOCAL FIRST PLACE

**\$500** cash prize  
LOCAL SECOND PLACE

**\$250** cash prize  
LOCAL THIRD PLACE

**\$1,000** cash prize  
STATE FIRST PLACE

Each finalist receives a certificate and a Proclamation from the Chester County Commissioners.

## How to Enter

If you are a middle school student with an idea about using civics to solve a problem in your community, review the rules and guidelines on this page:

[Click Here For Online Submission Form](#)

Next, complete the online submission form, including contact information for your parent or guardian, and upload (preferred method) or mail your 500-word essay.

Submission window opens **Mon. 11/13/23**  
Deadline for submissions is **Mon. 01/8/24**

Regional Competition is  
**Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 12:00pm**  
at Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge  
1601 Valley Forge Rd, Phoenixville, PA 19460



Questions? Email Abby at [abby@chescochamber.org](mailto:abby@chescochamber.org)

## Essay Topic

**Identify a problem facing your community. How might a citizen solve the problem?**

**Write a 500-word essay, two pages, double-spaced, that includes the following:**

- What way can you contribute to your community? How might others view this problem or opportunity differently?
- What are the ways you can approach this issue?
- What is your idea or recommendation?
- What sources provide supporting evidence or examples for your idea or recommendation?
- How might members of your community or neighborhood bring your idea or recommendation to life?
- Who might oppose your idea? How might you respond?

## Judging Criteria

**Your essay will be evaluated based on how well you:**

- Demonstrate an understanding of civics.
- Acknowledge and address opposing points of view.
- Acknowledge and address at least one Founding Principle and one Civic Virtue.
- Use primary sources, like newspapers, data, historical documents, images, or other documents that relate to your idea.
- Clearly describe an idea innovative or new to you.

## Best of Luck!

